Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings and versions of claims in this application.

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of setting the voice personality of a-voice service sites that operate by serving, from voice page servers, voice pages in the form of text with embedded voice markup tags to a voice browser, the voice browser carrying out text to speech conversion to generate voice output, and the voice browser being disposed between voice page servers and the user;[[,]] wherein a set of voice personality characterisers identified by indications included in a voice page of a previously-visited voice service site and used by the voice browser for presenting voice output of that page, said previously-visited site are-is also used by the voice browser in presenting the voice output of a voice page of a next-visited voice service site.

2. Canceled

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 1, wherein text to speech conversion at the voice browser is effected using a voice tract model, said voice personality characterisers being parameter values of this model.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 2 1, wherein text to speech conversion at the voice browser is effected by the concatenation of speech elements such as phonemes, allophones, diphones or the like, these latter forming said voice personality characterisers.

5-7. Canceled

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein a user accessing said voice service sites is asked at the time of transition from the previously-visited voice

site to the next-visited voice site whether the set of voice personality characterisers used in presenting the output of the <u>voice page of the</u> previously-visited site is to be used in presenting the <u>voice page of the</u> next-visited site.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein phrasing style data is associated with said set of voice personality characterisers, the voice browser using this phrasing style data to generate text, for subsequent conversion to voice output, that expresses a specified semantic meaning in a particular style matched with the voice personality defined by the voice personality characterisers.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Apparatus~~ <u>Voice browser apparatus for handling voice pages comprising text with embedded voice markup tags, said apparatus</u> comprising:

- voice-service access means for accessing <u>voice pages of</u> different voice service sites;
- ~~voice-service presentation means~~<u>a text-to-speech converter</u> for presenting the output from an accessed voice service site using a voice set by a selected set of voice personality characterisers; and
- selection means for selecting the set of voice personality characterisers to be used by the voice-service presentation means to present the currently accessed site, the selection means being operative to enable a set of voice personality characterisers identified by <u>indications included in a voice page of</u> a most recent previously-accessed voice service site and used by the ~~voice-service presentation means~~<u>text-to-speech converter</u> to present the <u>voice</u> output of that ~~site~~<u>page</u>, to be selected for use in presenting the <u>voice output of a voice page of a</u> currently-accessed voice service site.

11. Canceled

12. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~11~~<u>10</u>, wherein the text-to-speech converter is of a type using a voice tract model, said voice personality characterisers being parameter values of this model.

13. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~11~~<u>10</u>, wherein the text-to-speech converter is of a type that uses concatenation of speech elements such as

phonemes, allophones, diphones or the like, these latter forming said voice personality characterisers.

14-16. Canceled

17. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising means for checking with a user at the time of transition from said previously-accessed voice site to said currently-accessed voice site whether the set of voice personality characterisers used in presenting the output of the voice page of said previously-accessed site is to be re-used with in presenting the voice page of the currently-accessed site.

18. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to claim 11 10, wherein the voice browser includes a language generator arranged to use phrasing style data associated with the selected set of voice personality characterisers to generate text, for subsequent conversion to voice output by the text-to-speech converter, that expresses a specified semantic meaning in a particular style associated matched with a voice personality defined by the selected set of voice personality characterisers.